



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/511,762	10/19/2004	Hiroyuki Katata	1152-0311PUS1	6715
2292	7590	03/22/2007		
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH		EXAMINER		
PO BOX 747		CHU, RANDOLPH I		
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		2624		

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/22/2007	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Notice of this Office communication was sent electronically on the above-indicated "Notification Date" and has a shortened statutory period for reply of 3 MONTHS from 03/22/2007.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

mailroom@bskb.com

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/511,762	KATATA ET AL.
	Examiner Randolph Chu	Art Unit 2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 October 2004.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 10,13,15-20 and 25-30 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 10,13,15-20 and 25-30 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date See Continuation Sheet.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____.

Continuation of Attachment(s) 3). Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08), Paper No(s)/Mail Date :10/19/2004, 1/10/2005, 8/2/2006, 2/7/2007.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 10, 13, 15-18, and 25-29 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto et al. (US Patent 6,784,917) in view of Swift et al. (US 2002/0122585).

With respect to claim 10, Yamamoto et al. teaches a joining means for joining the plurality of images data based on a predetermined joining method (Fig. 1 ref. no. 13a, 13b and 20; Fig 3); a coding means for coding a joined image data (Fig 1. ref. no. 2);

Yamamoto et al. does not teach expressly that a 2-dimensional display image generating method coding means for coding a method of generating a 2-dimensional display image from the joined image data.

Swift et al. teaches a 2-dimensional display image generating method coding means for coding a method of generating a 2-dimensional (monoscopic) display image from the joined image data (para. [0027], Fig. 1).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to code 2-dimensional display image generating method in the method of Yamamoto et al.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been that to provide seamless support for monoscopic (2D) viewing mode allowing delivery of said stereoscopic media in a normal 2D viewing mode.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Swift et al. with Yamamoto et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 10.

With respect to claim 13, Yamamoto et al. teaches a decoding means for decoding the joined image data; (Fig. 7, col 6 lines 59-65); a 2-dimentional display image generating means for generating a 2-dimentional display image, using a decoded image data and a decoded 2-dimentional display image generating method information. (Fig 7, ref. no. 23);

Yamamoto et al. does not teach expressly that a 2-dimentional display image generating method decoding means for decoding the 2-dimentional display image generating method information.

Swift et al. teaches a 2-dimentional display image generating method decoding means for decoding the 2-dimentional display image generating method information. (para. [0027], Fig. 1).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to decode 2-dimensional display image generating method in the method of Yamamoto et al.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been that to provide seamless support for monoscopic (2D) viewing mode allowing delivery of said stereoscopic media in a normal 2D viewing mode.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Swift et al. with Yamamoto et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 13.

With respect to claim 15, the 2-dimensional display image is a miniaturized image for displaying a plurality of the joined images data in a menu representation (Fig 10, 1010 thumbnail).

With respect to claim 16, Yamamoto et al. teaches storing a plurality of coded images data corresponding respectively to a plurality of viewpoints; (Fig. 1 ref. no. 13a, 13b and 20; Fig 3);

Yamamoto et al. does not teach expressly that header information, in a predetermined format, wherein the header portion stores stereo image identification information that represents the fact that the coded data constitutes a stereo image made up of a plurality of images data and information that represents a joining method of joining the plurality of images data.

Swift et al. teaches header information, in a predetermined format, wherein the header portion stores stereo image identification information that represents the fact

that the coded data constitutes a stereo image made up of a plurality of images data and information that represents a joining method of joining the plurality of images data. (Fig 10, VRR file, ref. no 1004, 1006 and 1008).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to store stereo image identification information in the method of Yamamoto et al.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been that to provide seamless support for viewing mode allowing delivery of said stereoscopic media.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Swift et al. with Yamamoto et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 16.

With respect to claim 17, Yamamoto et al. teaches storing a plurality of coded images data corresponding respectively to a plurality of viewpoints; (Fig. 1 ref. no. 13a, 13b and 20; Fig 3);

Yamamoto et al. does not teach expressly that header portion stores stereo image identification information that represents the fact that the coded data constitutes a stereo image made up of the plurality of images data and information indicating a method of generating a 2-dimentional display image from the coded data.

Swift et al. teaches header portion stores stereo image identification information that represents the fact that the coded data constitutes a stereo image made up of the plurality of images data and information indicating a method of generating a 2-dimentional display image from the coded data. (Fig 10, para. [0027], Fig. 1).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to store stereo image identification information in the method of Yamamoto et al.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been that to provide seamless support for monoscopic (2D) viewing mode allowing delivery of said stereoscopic media in a normal 2D viewing mode.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Swift et al. with Yamamoto et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 17.

With respect to claims 18 and 29, Yamamoto et al. teaches multiplexing to the coded data (fig 1, ref no. 3).

With respect to claim 25, Yamamoto et al. teaches a joining means for joining the plurality of images data using a predetermined joining method (Fig. 1 ref. no. 13a, 13b and 20; Fig 3); and

Swift et al. teaches a 2-dimensional display image generating method coding means for encoding a method of generating a 2-dimensional display image from a joined image data (para. [0027], Fig. 1), wherein the recording area (Fig. 10) includes: an image recording sector for recording the joined image data or the 2-dimentional image data (Fig 10, 1004, 1006); an audio recording sector for recording an audio data (Fig 10, 1012); and a subcode sector for recording an associated information (Fig 10, 1002).

With respect to claim 26, Yamamoto et al. teaches a joining means for joining the plurality of images data using a predetermined joining method (Fig. 1 ref. no. 13a, 13b and 20; Fig 3); and

Swift et al. teaches a 2-dimensional display image generating method coding means for encoding a method of generating a 2-dimensional display image from a joined image data (para. [0027], Fig. 1), wherein the recording area (Fig. 10) includes: an image recording sector for recording the joined image data or the 2-dimentional image data (Fig 10, 1004, 1006); a coded data of information of generating the 2-dimensioal display image is recorded in the image recording sector (Fig 10, 1002, para. [0027], Fig. 1).

With respect to claim 27, Yamamoto et al. teaches a joining means for joining the plurality of images data using a predetermined joining method (Fig. 1 ref. no. 13a, 13b and 20; Fig 3); and

Swift et al. teaches a 2-dimensional display image generating method coding means for encoding a method of generating a 2-dimensional display image from a joined image data (para. [0027], Fig. 1), wherein the recording area (Fig. 10) includes: an audio recording sector for recording an audio data (Fig 10, 1012); and a coded data of information of generating the 2-dimensioal display image is recorded in the audio recording sector (Fig 10, 1002, para. [0027], Fig. 1).

With respect to claim 28, Yamamoto et al. teaches a joining means for joining the plurality of images data using a predetermined joining method (Fig. 1 ref. no. 13a, 13b and 20; Fig 3); and

Swift et al. teaches a 2-dimensional display image generating method coding means for encoding a method of generating a 2-dimensional display image from a joined image data (para. [0027], Fig. 1), wherein the recording area (Fig. 10) includes: a subcode sector for recording an associated information, and a coded data of information of generating the 2-dimensioal display image is recorded in the subcode recording sector. (Fig 10, 1002, para. [0027], Fig. 1).

3. Claims 19-20 and 30 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto et al. (US Patent 6,784,917) in view of Swift et al. (US 2002/0122585) and in further view of Iizuka et al. (US 2002/0054207).

With respect to claim 19 and 20 Yamamoto et al. in view of Swift et al. teaches all the limitations of claim 13 as applied above from which claim 19 and 20 respectively depend.

Yamamoto et al. in view of Swift et al. does not teach expressly that a display means capable of switching between a stereo representation and a 2-dimentional representation and automatic switching is done between the stereo representation and the 2-dimentional representation.

Iizuka et al. teaches a display means capable of switching between a stereo representation and a 2-dimentional representation and automatic switching is done between the stereo representation and the 2-dimentional representation (para [0233]).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to switch between stereo representation and 2D representation automatically in the method of Yamamoto et al. in view of Swift et al.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been that when display device doe not have capability to display stereo representation or user desired 2D image, switching to 2D image is desirable.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Baxes with Edgar to obtain the invention as specified in claim 19 and 20.

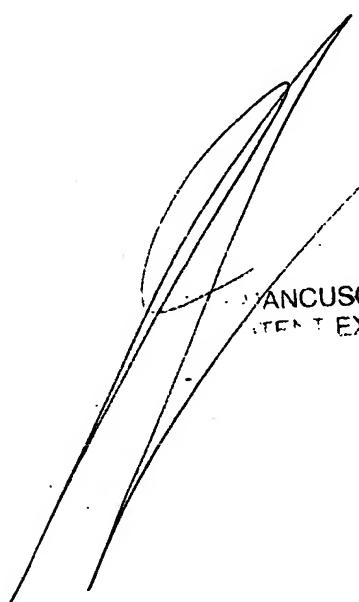
With respect to claim 30, please refer to rejection for claim 19.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Randolph Chu whose telephone number is 571-270-1145. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 7:30 am - 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Mancuso can be reached on 571-272-7695. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

RIC/



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JOSEPH MANCUSO". Below the signature, the words "PATENT EXAMINER" are printed in a smaller, capitalized font.